



## New Jersey Department of Children and Families Policy Manual

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### Pre-School for Children from Age 3 to Kindergarten Eligible

**2-4-2013**

The Division of Child Protection and Permanency requires the foster parent to enroll each child, age three to Kindergarten-eligible, in out-of-home placement, be enrolled in a pre-school program with an age appropriate educational component.

This also applies to any child who is five years old but who is not yet eligible for Kindergarten due to age requirements. The caregiver is responsible for enrolling the child in his or her care into a pre-school program. Detailed information regarding who is responsible for each activity is outlined below.

The amount of time (per day) and the length of time (days a week) are determined by the Worker or Resource Family Support Worker and the Supervisor, in consultation with the caregiver, birth parent(s), psychologist (if applicable), and other relevant collaterals.

The Worker or Resource Family Support Worker considers the amount of structure the child needs, the child's overall capabilities, and whether the program provided suits the needs of the child. A child who is classified as pre-school handicapped is eligible for free public pre-school. The Worker or Resource Family Support Worker and Supervisor conference all concerns about pre-school attendance and clearly document them on CP&P Form [26-52](#), Contact Sheet, and CP&P Form [26-81](#), Family Summary/Case Plan.

RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION REQUIRED
Foster Parent	Pre-school Enrollment -- You are responsible for enrolling each child age three to Kindergarten-eligible, in out-of-home placement, into a pre-school program with an age appropriate educational component. This includes any

	<p>child who is five years old but who is not yet eligible for Kindergarten due to age requirements. Also, ensure regular attendance and assist the foster child with any related school requirements. You are responsible for giving feedback regarding your perceptions of the child's pre-school needs to the Worker or Resource Family Support Worker and determine the most appropriate pre-school program available for the child.</p> <p>Point of contact -- It is of the utmost importance that the pre-school program have an accurate home/cellular phone number to contact you directly, should the pre-school need to contact the child's caregiver for any reason. (Under no circumstances should the pre-school programs have the CP&amp;P Local Office number as the main point of contact.)</p> <p>Transportation -- You are responsible for ensuring appropriate transportation of the foster child to and from pre-school. If the school district where you live has transportation available that meets the requirements of the Office of Early Care and Education (school bus), this is considered acceptable transportation. Ensuring that the foster child gets to the appropriate school is your responsibility.</p>
Worker or Resource Family Support Worker	<p>Compliance -- Ensure that the foster parent enrolls each child age three to Kindergarten-eligible, in out-of-home placement, into a pre-school program with an age appropriate educational component. This includes verifying attendance records and assisting the foster parent with any concerns or questions that arise regarding pre-school. The amount of time (per day) and the length of time (days a week) are determined by you and the Supervisor in consultation with the caregivers, birth</p>

	<p>parent(s), psychologist (if applicable), and other relevant collaterals. Consider the amount of structure needed for the child, family, as well as the caregiver's work responsibilities, and whether the program provided suits the needs of the child. You should clearly document any concerns on CP&amp;P Form <a href="#">26-52</a> Contact Sheet, and CP&amp;P Form <a href="#">26-81</a>, Family Summary/Case Plan.</p>
Supervisor	<p>Ensuring Compliance -- You, in consultation with the Worker or Resource Family Support Worker, and other interested parties as appropriate, decide the amount of time and length of time needed for the child to attend the wrap-around portion of pre-school. Conference concerns about pre-school attendance with the Worker or Resource Family Support Worker. Assure the Worker or Resource Family Support Worker clearly documents the results of your conference on CP&amp;P Form <a href="#">26-52</a>, Contact Sheet, and CP&amp;P Form <a href="#">26-81</a>, Family Summary/Case Plan.</p> <p>Exception to Pre-school Enrollment -- You, in consultation with the Worker or Resource Family Support Worker, and other interested parties as appropriate, decide if an exception should be granted for the individual child. Attending pre-school, in some circumstances, may not be in the child's best interest. Examples of exceptions include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical conditions</li> <li>• Behavioral problems</li> <li>• Adjustment to placement concerns</li> </ul>

General Information -- In each Local Office there is a child care liaison designated to help the Worker or Resource Family Support Worker and the foster parent navigate the pre-school/child care process.

RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION REQUIRED
Abbott School Districts	<p>There are 31 Abbott school districts in 14 counties in New Jersey. All Abbott school districts provide full day pre-school at no cost to the child or his or her caregiver. Full day pre-school is a six hour day.</p> <p>In order for a child to qualify for this program, the caregiver needs to be a resident of the Abbott school district. If the child resided in an Abbott district prior to placement, but currently does not reside in an Abbott district, pre-school eligibility is no longer a free service for purposes of Abbott. The Abbott school districts can be located by logging on to:</p> <p><a href="http://www.state.nj.us/education/archive/abbotts/web.htm">http://www.state.nj.us/education/archive/abbotts/web.htm</a></p> <p>Wrap - Around Services in Abbott Districts -- Most Abbott districts offer wrap-around services, which include before and after care in schools.</p> <p>The wrap-around service gives a child four additional hours of services a day if needed. The pre-school program must have an educational component. The amount of time (per day) and the length of time (days a week) are determined by the Worker or Resource Family Support Worker and the Supervisor, in consultation with the caregivers, birth parent(s), psychologist (if applicable), and other relevant collaterals. The Worker or Resource Family Support Worker considers the amount of structure the child needs, the caregiver's work responsibilities, and whether the program provided suits the needs of the child.</p> <p>There is no co-pay for any child placed for</p>

	child protective services reasons.
Non - Abbott School Eligibility Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handicapped -- A child who is classified pre-school handicapped is eligible for free public pre-school.</li> <li>• Non-handicapped -- A child is eligible for free pre-school if they are considered a protective services case.</li> </ul>
Head Start	Provides pre-school from monies directly issued by the federal government. In order to qualify for Head Start pre-school, the caregiver must meet the federal poverty index guidelines (100% of the poverty index). Some Head Start programs provide transportation.
Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)	Provides vouchers, pre-school referrals, and resources for children through slots paid for by the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS provides the CCR&R with a list of child care centers to utilize. Referrals to the CCR&R come through the designated "gatekeeper" in each CP&P Local Office. There is a CCR&R in each county